(c) Insurance cover is already available to both bus passengers and drivers.

National Highway Development Project

324. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has decided to seek Pubilc Investment Board's approval for taking up fresh projects worth about Rs. 10,000 crore;

(b) if so, whether these projects will form the first tranche of second phase of Rs. 30,000 crore National Highway Development Project;

(c) whether the NHAI has also sought a go-ahead for accessing Asian Development Bank funding for a 500 km. stretch on the north-south, east-west corridors; and

(d) if so, by when these schemes are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) to (c) The Second phase of National Highways Development Project (NHDP) comprises 4/6 laning of 5812 kms on North-South and East-West Corridor. The first tranche of this phase comprising four laning of 506 kms at the cost of Rs. 2574 crores has been approved by Public Investment Board for accessing Asian Development Bank (ADB) funding. For remaining length of the Second phase, Government approval will be sought appropriately.

(d) The first tranche of Second phase under ADB funding is targeted for completion in 2005-06.

SIDBI Report, 2001

325. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the Small Industries Development Bank of India Report, 2001 Small Scale Industries (SSI) in the country are being affected the most due to the agreements signed under World Trade Organisation (WTO);